

Los Alamos

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

DATE
IN REPLY REFER TO
MAIL STOP
TELEPHONE

Mr. William J. Casey, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

Ron Lohrding and I appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you some of the recent developments in the American energy and minerals program.

I received from your office a copy of the speech you delivered in Atlanta. The New York Times evidently confused your role as a senior government official with your role as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and connected your remarks about the Los Alamos program to the CIA. This mistake caused us some difficulties. The enclosed articles attempt to clarify the situation.

Your personal support of our AID-sponsored program is very important to us. In a short time we feel we have accomplished a great deal in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and our Central American counterparts. For example, we have identified geochemical anomalies in Costa Rica that may be indicative of mineral deposits, we have located large deposits of peat in Costa Rica and Panama, we are presently drilling a test well in a potential geothermal reservoir in Honduras, and we are constructing a demonstration plant for direct use of geothermal energy in Guatemala.

As we indicated to you, the purpose of our program is to do the initial front-end work on a variety of energy and mineral-related projects in hopes of attracting US and local industry to do the follow-on development and production activities. We believe this approach may be a key to economic and political stability in the area.

Once again, we appreciate your interest in this program.

Sincerely yours,


John T. Whetten
Associate Director for
Energy and Research Applications

JTW:ba
Enc: a/s
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